



Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

BULLETIN

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Quarterly Bulletin

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The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. People of any age and background are welcome as members.

For more information, visit website <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>; email info@tasfieldnats.org.au; write to GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001; or phone our secretary on (03)62278638.

Your articles and photos for the Bulletin are welcome. Please email to the editor by 20 March 2017 for April edition
2017 Subscriptions are now due. Please pay your sub promptly as delay complicates the auditing and finalising of books for the AGM in March. See the bottom of this page for details of how to pay.

Excursion to Noah's Saddle.....	2	Library Corner	7
Excursion to Fortescue Bay.....	3	Easter Camp at Ben Lomond	8
Christmas Barbeque at Mt Field	6	Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Tasmanian	
The Tasmanian Naturalist.....	7	Field Naturalists Club INC.	8

Program

General Meetings start at **7.15 pm** for 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month and feature a guest speaker on natural history (no meetings or excursions in January). Meetings are held in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania.

Excursions are usually held the following Saturday or Sunday, meeting at 9.00 am outside the Museum in Macquarie St, Hobart. Bring lunch and all-weather outdoor gear. If you are planning to attend an outing, but have not been to the prior meeting, please confirm the details on the club website as late changes are sometimes made.

Thurs 2nd. Feb	Guest Speaker Luna van der Loos: "Seaweeds - life in a changing ocean".
Sun 5th Feb.	Excursion: Rheban beach, East coast
Thurs 2nd March	Annual General Meeting, elections of office bearers and President's address
Sat 4th. March	Excursion: Sandfly oval to North West Bay walk
Thurs 6th. April	Guest Speaker: Els Wakefield "A glimpse into the unique natural history and people of Madagascar".
Fri-Sun 14-16 April	Easter Camp at Ben Lomond
Thurs 4th. May	Guest Speaker: Mick Brown "Some conservation issues for birds".
Sat. 6 May	Excursion: Destination to be announced
June 1st.	Guest Speaker Peter Last "The New Global Compendium of the World's Rays"

For details of talks and excursions beyond this date, please check the website at <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>

Subs due now

Three ways to pay: by cheque to the Club address, by Paypal (follow the links on our website <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>) or by EFT to the Club account BSB 067 102 A/c 2800 0476.

Please identify your payment with your name and initial.

Family \$35 Single \$30 Single Junior or Concession \$25

Excursion to Noah's Saddle

8th. October 2017

On Saturday 8th October 2016 a group of 21 Field Nats set off from Pottery Road in Lenah Valley to head up towards Noah's Saddle in search of orchids. In particular we were seeking *Pheladenia deformis* (Blue Fairy) which had been found in the area in previous weeks.



The group at start of walk

Photograph: Geoff Carle

On the climb up through the bush we soon spotted *Calochilus* (Bearded Orchid) in bud, small pink *Caladenias* and a few *Acianthus caudatus* (Mayfly Orchid). We also found some *Diuris* with unusual colouring. Reference books were consulted to see if was *Diuris palustris* however Mark Wapstra confirmed afterwards that it was *Diuris pardina* (Donkey Orchid).

When Robyn spotted a Copperhead snake sunning itself on a log, with typical Field Nats behaviour rather than running away, everyone rushed up to see it. The same thing happened when a spider scurried in during our tea break. Spider expert John Douglas has now identified it as *Delena spenceri* (a seldom seen member of the Huntsman family which inhabits higher altitudes) and has added the photo to his Tasmanian Spider website.



Delena spenceri

Photograph: Margaret Warren

Kevin was the first to locate *Pheladenia deformis* and we soon found quite a few scattered though the area, all were single specimens growing out in the open on dry rocky soil. Ellen then found a most unusual specimen which had three labellums. These tiny blue orchids are beautiful and it was the first time many people in the group had seen one.



Pheladenia deformis

Photograph: Margaret Warren

On the way back to the cars we found a healthy patch of *Chiloglottis triceratops* (Bird Orchids). They are so named because of the three horn like calli at the back of the labellum.

Some people had to leave early but the rest of the group then set off to search for more orchids and located *Caladenia echidnachila* (Fawn Spider Orchid). This species was first recorded from Pottery Road in 1932.

In all it was a most enjoyable excursion and a good number of orchids were found.

Margaret Warren

Plant list (By Annabel Carle)

Orchids ...not in order sighted!

Caladenia carneae
Acianthus caudatus
Calochilus paludosus
Glossodia major
Pheladenia deformis
Chiloglottis triceratops
Diuris pardina
Caladenia echidnachila

Other species

Fabaceae- *Daviesia ulicifolia*-yellow spiky pea
Asteraceae - *Bedfordia linearis*
Colchiciaceae - *Wurmbea dioica* male and female flowers/ plants

Myrtaceae - *Eucalyptus globulus*-our state emblem!

Epacridaceae - *Epacris impressa* - Common Heath (Victoria's state emblem) pink and white forms

Cyperaceae - *Gahnia* sp. one of the small Saw sedges

Weeds/introduced plants

Brassicaceae- *Cardamine hirsuta* - Common Bittercress

Asteraceae- *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp *monilifera* Boneseed (can be big shrubs Bright yellow daisy flowers)

Broom

Forget me Not

Oxalis

Thistles

Excursion to Fortescue Bay

November 2016

Attendees: Kevin Bonham, Abbey , Don Hird, David Ratkowsky, Genevieve Gates, Mick and Deirdre Brown, Ainsley and Ashley Cooper, Jane Catchpole, Annabel and Geoff Carle, Luna van der Loos



On Fortescue Bay beach at start of walk

Photograph: Geoff Carle

The group of Field Naturalists met in the carpark at Fortescue Bay at about 10.30 am on a mild overcast day. We set off to amble along the beach, stopping frequently (as is our usual practice) to examine shells and admire the view. Someone in the party reminded us that we were there to follow up on Alastair Richardson's talk on Thursday about sand hoppers, so we diligently turned our attention to searching seaweed and debris for these creatures.

As predicted, sandhoppers were abundant in the sandy debris, as well as small spiders and flies. Annabel also found a scorpion under a small log on the beach.



Sandhopper of unknown species

Photograph: Deirdre Brown

As we proceeded along the beach, turning over debris, we noticed a very agitated Pied oystercatcher which was disturbed by our presence. These birds are almost always seen in pairs, and we soon spotted the other one, sitting on a nest on an eroded dune shelf.



Erosion at Fortescue Bay

Photograph: Deirdre Brown

We moved closer to the sea and walked on the wet sand to avoid disturbing the nesting pair.

Luna was interested in the shells, and was able to use Simon Grove's book to identify a New Zealand screw shell, tawer and paphies species and a *Sepia* cuttle bone. (*The Seashells of Tasmania, a Comprehensive Guide*).

Fortescue Bay beach has been affected by recent storms and high water, and banks along the back of the beach have been severely eroded and have collapsed. At one spot a pile of putrefying seaweed was found to have a solid mass of fly pupae, mostly expired (ie open – the flies had hatched and flown).

From the northern end of the beach we climbed over a small ridge and into the second bay where storm damage was also evident.



The mass of expired fly pupae

Photograph: Deirdre Brown

A storm surge had washed up into the shaded glade behind the rocky beach and the trees and ferns there were suffering severe salt necrosis.

Some of the party chose to eat lunch at this rocky beach. As we climbed the next ridge we found the partly eaten corpse of a Little Penguin on the track. A deposit of bird lime beneath a nearby tree marked a likely spot for a raptor to have been on watch.



Salt necrosis from storm surge

Photograph: Geoff Carle

There was evidence of penguin tracks high above foreshore, marked by flattened ground and an abundance of liverwort growing where perhaps the other vascular plants had been discouraged by the patter of little feet. There were also several burrows, and it appears there is a reasonably large penguin population there.



Coastline between Fortescue and Canoe Bay

Photograph: Deirdre Brown

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club

We ended our walk at Canoe Bay where the wreck of the William Pitt makes a handy perch for cormorants. The William Pitt was a steam hopper barge, originally named Andre Reboulas, built in the UK in 1904. She was brought to Hobart in 1940 for use in the construction of the floating Arch Bridge across the Derwent River. She was later scuttled in 1955 to act as a breakwater for small craft in Canoe Bay. (Reference: Parks and Wildlife website).

Canoe Bay was once the site of a fish processing plant, but little remains of it now.

The track continues to Bivouac Bay, and the walk from Fortescue to Bivouac is about 5km, a 3 hour return walk according to PWS website. TFN pace is however more leisurely and we managed to fill in the day pleasantly by going only part way.



The hulk of The William Pitt makes a roost for Black-faced cormorants

Photograph: Deirdre Brown

We returned to our cars by about 4pm in time for a quick afternoon tea before driving home.

Kevin found 10 species of snails, all of them common, but two were new for Fortescue Bay.

Deirdre Brown

Snail list (Kevin Bonham)

10 species found, all of them common:

Caryodes dufresnii
Bothriembryon tasmanicus
Helicarion cuvieri
Thryasona diemenensis
Pernagera officieri
Paralaoma cf hobarti
P. halli
*P. discors**
Laomavix collisi
*Punctidae sp "Micro Cripps"**

Two species marked *have not been recorded from Fortescue before.

Plant list (Annabel Carle)

Liverwort: *Marchantia* sp.

Ferns

<i>Blechnum nudum</i>	Fishbone Water-fern, Blackstem
<i>Dicksonia antartica</i>	Soft tree-fern
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	Bat's Wing fern
<i>Hypolepis rugulosa</i>	Ruddy Ground-fern
<i>Microsorum diversifolium</i>	Kangaroo Fern
<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>	Mother Shield-fern
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Bracken

Monocotyledons

Asparagaceae

<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Saggs
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Cyperaceae

<i>Carex appressa</i>	Tall Sedge
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club-sedge
<i>Gahnia grandis</i>	Cutting Grass
<i>Isolepis cernua</i> (?)	Nodding Club-sedge
<i>Lepidosperma elatius</i>	Tall Sawsedge
<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	

Iridaceae

<i>Diplarella moraea</i>	White Flag-iris
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Juncaceae

<i>Juncus kraussii</i>	Sea Rush
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Hemerocallidaceae

<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Forest Flaxlily
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Orchidaceae

<i>Acianthus caudatus</i>	Mayfly Orchid
<i>Gastrowia sesamoides</i> (in bud)	Potato Orchid

Poaceae

<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram grass
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DICOTYLEDONS

Araliaceae (Apiaceae)

<i>Hydrocotyle</i> sp.	Pennywort
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Asteraceae

<i>Bedfordia salicina</i>	Tasmanian Blanketleaf
<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Dolly Bush
<i>Coronidium (Helichrysum) scorpioides</i>	Curling Everlasting
<i>Lagenophora</i> sp. (juvenile)	Bottle-daisy
<i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Musk Daisybush
<i>Olearia phlogopappa</i>	Dusty Daisybush
<i>Senecio</i> sp. (juvenile)	

Brassicaceae

* <i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket
* <i>Cardamine</i> sp.	Bittercress

Casuarinaceae

<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping She-Oak
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Convolvulaceae

<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidneyweed
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Dilleniaceae

<i>Hibbertia hirticalyx</i>	Bassian Guineaflower
<i>Hibbertia 'riparia' complex</i>	Erect Guineaflower

Droseraceae

<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	Tall Sundew
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Ericaceae

<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common heath
<i>Epacris myrtifolia</i>	Cliff heath
<i>Leptecophylla juniperina</i>	Common Pinkberry
<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>	Coast Beardheath
<i>Monotoca glauca</i>	Gold y wood

Euphorbiaceae

<i>Beyeria viscosa</i>	Pinkwood
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Fabaceae

<i>Acacia longifolia</i> ssp. <i>Sophorae</i>	Coast wattle
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Redstem Wattle
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses
<i>Platylobium triangulare</i>	Arrow Flatpea
<i>Pultenaea daphnoides</i>	Heartleaf Bushpea

Geraniaceae

<i>Pelargonium australe</i>	Southern Storksbill
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Goodeniaceae

<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Native-Primrose
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Haloragaceae

<i>Gonocarpus teucrioides</i>	Forest Raspwort
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Lauraceae

<i>Cassytha pubescens</i>	Downy Dodderlaurel
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Myrtaceae

<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Common Fringemyrtle
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue gum
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Stringy bark
<i>Melaleuca pallida</i>	(<i>Callistemon pallidus</i>)
	Yellow Bottlebrush

Oxalidaceae

<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> 'complex'	Yellow Wood-sorrel
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Pittosporaceae

<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Prickly Box
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Polygalaceae	
<i>Comesperma volubile</i>	Blue Lovecreepers
Primulaceae	
* <i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	Scarlet & Blue Pimpernel
Proteaceae	
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Hakea teretifolia</i>	Dagger Needlebush
<i>Lomatia tinctoria</i>	Guitarplant
Ranunculaceae	
<i>Clematis clitoroides</i>	Old Man's Beard
Rhamnaceae	
<i>Pomaderris apetala</i>	Common Dogwood
Rubiaceae	
<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	Native Currant
<i>Galium</i> sp.	Bedstraw
Rutaceae	
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Common Correa
<i>Zieria arboreascens</i>	Stinkwood
Santalaceae	
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Common Native-cherry
<i>Exocarpos strictus</i>	Pearly Native-cherry
<i>Leptomeria drupacea</i>	Erect Currantbush
Sapindaceae	
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Broad-leaf Hopbush
Stackhousiaceae	
<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>	Forest Candles
Stylidiaceae	
<i>Stylium graminifolium/ armeria</i>	Triggerplant
Urticaceae	
<i>Urtica incisa</i>	Scrub Nettle
Violaceae	
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Ivyleaf Violet



Botanising along the track

Photograph: Deirdre Brown

Fungi list (Genevieve Gates)

<i>Agaricus austrovirinaceus</i>
<i>Amanita ochraceobulbosa</i>
Bolete – very young, yellow-orange cap, yellow pores
<i>Dictyopanus pusillus</i>
<i>Orbilia aff. xanthostigma</i>
<i>Panellus stipticus</i>
<i>Perenniporia ochroleuca</i>
<i>Phellinus wahlbergii</i>
<i>Rhizochaete filamentosa</i>
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>
<i>Stereum ostrea</i>
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>

Christmas Barbeque at Mt Field

3 December 2016

Sixteen Field Nats, including two of our Life Members, attended the Christmas BBQ at the day-use site at Mount Field National Park. Mick and Deirdre arrived early to secure the best site, with double electric BBQ and pleasant shelter shed. The day was warm and sunny, and for a Saturday the park was not very busy. There was actually no competition for the BBQ site.

Before putting our snags on the barbie, most of us walked up to Russell Falls, scanning the creek for platypuses (not seen) and the shaded banks for orchids and birds –several species of orchids were seen as well as a pair of pink robins.



At the Christmas BBQ

Photograph: Geoff Carle

After a pleasant lunch and get together, some had to return to Hobart, and some drove up the Lake Dobson Road in search of birds, plants and snails.



Looking for a platypus on the Russel Falls track

Photograph: Deirdre Brown

The Tasmanian Naturalist

The 2016 edition of The Tasmanian Naturalist should have reached all members by now (by post). If you have not received your copy, please email tfn.bulletin.editor@gmail.com or let us know at a meeting.

The Editors are now calling for articles for the 2017 edition. See our website for advice to authors, or contact Mick Brown at mickjbrown1@outlook.com

Library Corner

The TFNC Library book catalogue has been updated and includes our recent purchases. It can be found on our website. See

<http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/library/>

Book Accessions since September 2016

Weeds of the South-east. An identification Guide for Australia. Third Edition.

By FJ Richardson, RG Richardson RG, RCH Shepherd
A comprehensive ID guide of weeds in the SE of Australia. This field guide is for anyone interested in identifying pest plants and the preservation of our native flora. An essential tool for all naturalists. An excellent book!

Understanding our natural world - The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria 1880-2015. By Gary Presland.

This is the story of FNCV about thousands of people working together to increase their own knowledge and understanding of the natural history of Victoria. The data recorded by the club through more than 135 years of fieldwork in all parts of Victoria, has been an enormous contribution.

Jellyfish - A Natural History, By Lisa-Ann Gershwin

This beautiful book examines the anatomy, taxonomy, behaviours, ecology and lifecycles of these incredible

creatures & profiles fifty of the most notable and intriguing jellyfish.

Best Bush, Coast and Village Walks of South-East Tasmania. By Ingrid Roberts

Note: This was purchased for our Walks and Talks Coordinator. This book includes summary tables of walk distances, grades, estimated duration and highlights. Accurate colour maps showing waypoints and nearby facilities; Info about the regions history; ID charts for the most commonly seen wildflowers and birds.

Frogs of Tasmania - Fauna of Tasmania Handbook no. 6. 2nd Edition. By Murray Littlejohn

Comprehensive Guide to the eleven species of amphibians that occur in Tasmania - three of which are endemic. Includes a distribution map for each species, one or more colour photos + keys to eggs, tadpoles, adults & calls

Tasmanian Bats and their habitat - A Guide. By Lisa Cawthen

An informative guide to Tasmania's bat biology, identification and habitat management

A Field Guide to Tasmanian fungi. Second Edition

By Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky

A comprehensive guide relevant to the whole of southern Australia, with 650 species of fungi superbly illustrated, with descriptions provided for each species.

We welcome any recommendations of books we should purchase for the TFNC Library.

Borrowing books

Whenever possible the Library cupboard will be open for book loans/returns by 7.15pm **before** each monthly meeting. New books acquired for the Library since the last meeting will also be displayed

An email to librarian@tasfieldnats.org.au will ensure any books you wish to borrow are ready and waiting for you.

Book returns

Several books have been on loan for more than three months, please bring them back to the February 2nd meeting, so others can read them too!

Book sales

The books that TFNC has for sale can be found on our website at

<http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/bookshop/>

There is just ONE copy of the *Jewel Beetles of Tasmania* by David Cowrie. \$12.00 + postage left in the Library Cupboard for sale. This is your very last chance, please be quick! Email me!

librarian@tasfieldnats.org.au

